[Mr. K. P. P. Menon.]

(*g*) Municipal taxes are collected by Aminadars in the Municipality. There are no bill collectors in the Water Works Department but the meter readers are engaged in collecting bills in addition to their normal duties of meter reading and preparation of bills.

(*h*) The scale of pay of the Aminadars is Rs. 15-1-20. Five meter readers are in the scale of Rs. 25-40 and 6 in the scale of Rs. 20-25.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know how the remaining amount was collected ?

Mr. K. P. P. Menon : The rest of the amount was paid by the consumers at the cashier's counter.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: May I know from the member whether he is aware that house connection will be disconnected at night ?

Mr. K. P. P. Menon : It is quite possible.

President : I do not catch the member.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: In a particular house in Trivandrum, when I was talking with a friend of mine at about 8 O'clock in the night, suddenly the lights went out, when the children were taking their food. On enquiry I understood that the man had not paid his dues. Even if he had not paid his dues, as a matter of common courtesy, it should not have been disconnected at 8 O'clock when there was no kerosene oil in the House.

Mr. K. P. P. Menon : It is the usual practice to give reasonable notice to the consumers.

President : Will the member look into the matter ?

Mr. K. P. P. Menon : Yes, Sir.

Diseases affecting the cardamom plants.

58. ***Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have made any enquiry about the diseases affecting the cardamom plants in the Devicolam taluk; if so whether they have found out any means of combating this disease ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : Yes. Necessary enquiries have been made and the means of combating the pest have been found out and demonstrated.

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